

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claims 1-2 and 4-6, and adds new claims 8-12. Thus, claims 3 and 8-12 are pending upon entry of the instant amendment. Claims 8 and 12 are independent.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Canadian Publication No. 20303466A1 to Loen et al. (Loen) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,937,160 to Davis et al (Davis). Applicants submit that the cancellation of claims 1-2 and 4-6 obviate these rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 8-12 have been added to point out various aspects of the present application. No new matter is added. Claims 8-12 are believed to be in condition for allowance over the cited art.

For example, claim 8 recites “a patrol search unit patrolling the mail server, the update terminal, the home page data base and the schedule data base to search for at least one of the request of updating the home page, the first and second identifying items and the date item to extract updated one of the content files and the updating files in accordance with a patrol order of the mail server, the update terminal, the home page data base, and the schedule data base, a patrol timing, and a number of times that patrol is to be carried out, which are determined based on the order of priority for accessing the mail server, the home page data base, the update terminal, and the schedule data base”.

Applicants submit that claim 8 clarifies that banner data is updated to update HTML document data, and that a patrol search unit (32b) searches for the request of updating the home page in a update terminal (5, 6), or first and second identifying items in the update terminal (5, 6), the mail server (4) and the home page data base (332), or

the date item in schedule data base (333). The first and second identifying items include an ID or URL address assigned to an entrant and useful in specifying a home page.

Namely, Applicants submit that the identifying items for clarifying that the entrant has participated in the home page are searched for. If the identifying items are specified by this search, a content file or update file associated with each identifying item is extracted. If the extracted file is the latest one, the banner data of the home page is updated by this file. Importantly, the claimed the patrol search unit (32b) does not receive mails as in the cited art, but positively patrols the mail server (4) and the update terminal (5, 6).

In addition, claim 12 recites, in part, a home page management unit that reads “the HTML data from the home page database”, issues “a patrol search command to the patrol search unit to search and extract data relating to the banner HTML data from the first request, the second request, and the schedule data”, issues “a banner generation command to the banner generation unit to generate the banner HTML data based on the data”, reads “the banner HTML data from the banner generation unit”, appends “the banner HTML data to the HTML data”, and transmits “the HTML data with the banner HTML data appended thereto to a user terminal in response to a request from the user terminal”.

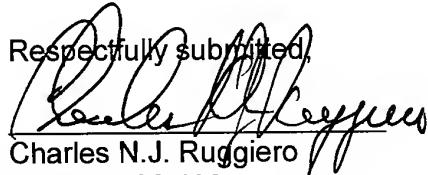
Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest a home page management unit as recited by claim 12. Again, the claimed the patrol search unit (32b) does not receive mails as in the cited art, but positively patrols the mail server (4) and the update terminal (5, 6).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for issuance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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